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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,646	01/07/2002	Folker Beck	09002-US	9275

7590 12/20/2002

Deere & Company
John Deere Road
Moline, IL 61265-8098

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

PIPALA, EDWARD J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3661	

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/039,646	Applicant(s) Beck et al.
	Examiner Edward Pipala	Art Unit 3661



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 21, 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 sheets

6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the application filed January 7, 2002, as well as the IDS filed May 21, 2002.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The IDS filed on 1/7/02 and 5/21/02 have been fully considered by the Examiner as indicated by the accompanying Examiner initialed copies of Applicant's form PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hieronymus et al. (5,978,720), in view of Loeffler (5,893,892).

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Hieronymus et al. discloses a combine harvester and thrasher having a multi-processor control and monitoring system which is connected to measurement devices, activation members and respective component devices. Hieronymus et al further disclose that the use of a monitoring and diagnostic processor is well known in the art for monitoring the speeds and set-point values for the numerous agricultural elements such as the threshing drum and different slippage thresholds. Hieronymus et al. does not particularly teach monitoring vibration of a component or associated member as one of the signals being monitored.

Loeffler clearly teaches a vibration sensing and diagnostic system used for detecting both the frequency and magnitude of vibration signals emanating from the drivetrain of a vehicle (which is considered to encompass the like of an acoustic sensor as recited in claims 4 and 7), and diagnosing the component with which the vibration is associated.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have implemented the teachings of Loeffler within the context of the agricultural machine monitoring system of Hieronymus et al., in order to further provide the appropriate warnings to the operator.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Pipala whose telephone number is (703) 305-9785. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.

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If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Bill Cuchlinski, can be reached on (703) 308-3873. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

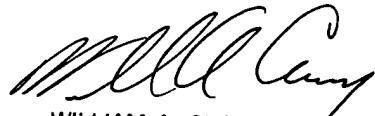
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 305-7687, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 5 Crystal Park, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington,
VA., Seventh Floor (Receptionist).

EP
Edward Pipala
(703) 305-9785


WILLIAM A. CUCHLINSKI, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600